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Week ending Friday February 2, 2018

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Local News

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MARCH: Residents opposed to planned changes to healthcare in south Essex
Photo courtesy Gaz de Vere

Trust merger protest

HUNDREDS of protesters marched down Southend High Street against plans for the future of healthcare across south Essex.

Campaign group Save Southend NHS organised the march on Saturday, which ended with a rally outside the Victoria Shopping Centre.

The protesters were opposing a public consulta-

tion into the Mid and South Essex Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) plans for the future of health and care, as well as the planned merger of the trusts which run Southend, Basildon and Broomfield hospitals.

The march followed a similar one last year which successfully opposed a proposed down-

grading of Southend Hospital's A&E department.

Mike Fieldhouse, secretary of Save Southend NHS, said: "It was an amazing turnout on Saturday, maybe even bigger than last year – a real community event with a fantastic atmosphere. It just goes to show how passionately people care about our wonderful NHS."

Prolific child sex offender jailed after victims come forward

JUSTICE AT LAST!



PAEDOPHILE: Neil Duncan

A SHOEBURY man has been jailed for 16 years for committing a number of historic child sex offences.

Neil Duncan, 74, of Kingfisher Close, was sentenced at Wood Green Crown Court on Wednesday, January 24.

Duncan, a retired musician, will

also be made to sign the sex offenders' register for life.

He pleaded guilty on December 5 to 39 offences relating to six male victims. Those offences were one count of attempted buggery with a victim aged under 16, seven counts of buggery with a victim aged

under 16, one count of incitement to commit buggery, 13 counts of indecency with a child under the age of 14, 15 counts of indecent assault on a male under the age of 16 and two counts of making indecent images.

DC Amy Dobner, from the Child Abuse and Sexual Offences

Command (CASO), said: "Duncan is a prolific offender who spent the 1970s abusing young children. I am grateful that they have since come forward so that we could take the necessary action to bring him before the courts."

● Turn to page 4

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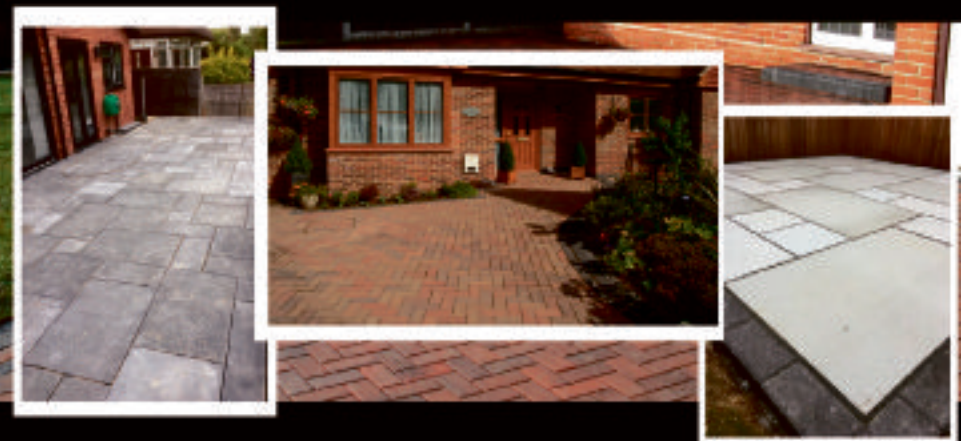
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Misconduct hearing told of inappropriate behaviour as male nurse in 'state of arousal' Nurse struck off for simulated sex act with female colleague

A NURSE at a Southend day centre has been struck off after rubbing himself up against a female colleague and simulating a sexual act.

Edward Jacobs, a mental health nurse, was struck off the register by a panel from the Nursing and Midwifery Council's (NMC) fitness to practise committee following a misconduct hearing on January 15-18.

Jacobs admitted charges that he grabbed his colleague's waist and/or body, placed and/or rubbed his groin area and/or body against his colleague's bottom, simulated a sexual act

with his colleague and his conduct and any or all of the above charges was inappropriate and/or sexually motivated. The incident happened at the Taylor Centre on December 1 2015.

The panel found that Jacobs was in a state of arousal while simulating a sexual act with the female colleague, despite his denials. Ms Helen Guest, on behalf of the NMC, said his actions have had a "profound" effect on the colleague. She added that Jacobs' conduct "fell far short of the standards expected of a registered nurse".

David Claxton, on behalf of Jacobs, submitted that his actions had been "spontaneous" and happened after Jacobs had been joking with two male colleagues.

Mr Claxton also said Jacobs' actions were "out of character", and that he had completed three relevant courses. He said Jacobs had been dismissed from the South Essex Partnerships NHS Foundation Trust (SEPT), where he had worked for more than 10 years and there had been no suggestion of any inappropriate behaviour towards anyone in his nursing career.

But the panel concluded Jacobs had not developed "sufficient insight" into the seriousness of his actions and the training courses "fell far short" of suitable remediation. It also concluded his actions of simulating a sex act had been for his own sexual gratification, and that he "humiliated and degraded" his colleague in front of others. The panel found that to allow Jacobs to continue to practise as a registered nurse "would put patients, colleagues and others at unwarranted risk of harm in respect of the potential for sexually motivated behaviour."

An interim 18 month suspension order was made to allow for the possibility of an appeal.

A spokesman for the Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust, which SEPT merged into, said: "Following the disclosure of allegations a full internal process was conducted in line with the relevant trust policy and procedure and at the same time a referral to the NMC was made."

The spokesman added that Jacobs' employment was terminated with SEPT in May 2016.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Banjo in for panto

● ASHLEY Banjo and dance group Diversity will star in this year's panto at the Cliffs Pavilion in Southend.

They will perform as the genies of the ring in Aladdin, which will run at the theatre from December 14.

Ashley, a current judge on ITV show Dancing on Ice, is the founder and leader of the group, which won Britain's Got Talent in 2009.

They made their panto debuts in Dick Whittington at the London Palladium last year.

Park consultation is on

● A NEW facility for skateboarders, BMX and scooter riders could be coming to Southend as a consultation is launched on possible locations.

Southend Council is calling on people to take part in the online consultation, which is looking to identify a preference out of three possible locations.

The potential locations are Old Warrior Square Swim Centre site, situated east of the High Street; London Road North Car Park, situated south west of Victoria Gateway and the plaza side of the Civic Centre, situated south of it.

The consultation can be found at www.southend.gov.uk/wheeledsports and will be live for the next six weeks.

Southend book swap

● SOUTHEND has joined a south east network of libraries, which the borough's council says will give users access to more books and face lower charges.

From March 26, Southend Council will leave the Essex Library Service – co-ordinated by Essex County Council – to become a member of South East Library Management System (SELMs).

Other members of SELMS include Kent, Brighton & Hove and Buckinghamshire.

A council spokesman said the move will give library users access to a pool of 6 million books and other library resources, as well as lower library charges and service improvements.

For more information visit www.southend.gov.uk/librarychanges.

YMCA appeal for 'Sleep Easy' volunteers to brave cold

A SOUTHEND youth charity is calling on people to sleep on the town's streets as part of an annual fundraising event.

Southend YMCA is looking for residents to take part in the Sleep Easy event, to generate money and awareness of youth homelessness.

The event, on March 3, will see participants sleep in cardboard boxes in the charity's car park in Ambleside Drive.

A charity spokesman said it has hosted the event since 2011, and has raised more than £40,000 in that time.

Southend YMCA's chief executive, Syrie Cox, said: "YMCAs across the country are holding Sleep Easy events at the same time to raise much needed aware-

ness of the plight of rough sleeping amongst young people.

"We know from our experience that without the support we offer, many more young people would be sleeping on the streets and have less options and less chance of realising their potential.

"We are calling on the local community, old and young, to sign up to the YMCA Sleep Easy campaign to help us support young people in our services today and into the future.

"One night out can make a lifetime difference."

To register for the Sleep Easy event, visit www.southendymca.org.uk/sleepeasy or email sleepeasy@southendymca.org.uk



SLEEP EASY: YMCA appeal for volunteers to attend fund raising event.

Photo Martin Dalton



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Essex schools above national average in revised GCSEs

Pupils scale new heights in exams

SECONDARY schools in Essex have cause for celebration after latest statistics released last week confirmed the county's GCSE pupils again performed above the national average.

About 15,000 young people were entered into GCSEs at schools in the county last year, which was the first time since the Government introduced a new numerical (9 to 1) grading system.

Figures released by the Department for Education, alongside secondary school performance tables, show the attainment 8 score for Essex (average grade across a set of eight subjects) was 46.7 – above the national average of 46.4.

As a result of the data, Essex is ranked 58th of all 151 local authorities.

The 65.3 per cent of pupils in Essex who achieved a standard pass at GCSE (9-4) in English and maths is also above the national average of 64.2 per cent.

English language, English literature and maths were the only subjects to be graded under the new 9 to 1 scale, with others continuing to be graded A* to G.

Most other subjects are expected to adopt numerical grades by 2019.

As well as releasing revised Key Stage 4 results, the Department for Education published revised A-level results.

Clr Ray Gooding, Essex County Council's cabinet member for education, said: "Secondary schools in Essex are continuing to perform exceptionally well with about 97.5 per cent currently rated as

good or outstanding by Ofsted, compared with a national average of 80.3 per cent.

"I am very pleased that their hard work is also reflected in these revised GCSE results and secondary school performance tables, which confirm the county's pupils are achieving higher grades than many of their peers elsewhere in the country.

"The new GCSE grading scales represented an additional test and I would like to once again congratulate schools and their pupils on their excellent achievements in challenging circumstances.

"As a council, we remain committed to ensuring all pupils in Essex receive the best possible education and continue to work very closely with schools."

Paedophile jailed for historic child sex offences

From front page

"I would like to take this opportunity to praise their bravery and resolve."

Police were first contacted by one of Duncan's victims in March 2016.

Three other victims came forward towards the end of 2016 and early 2017. They all told officers that they had been assaulted by Duncan as young boys in the 1970s.

A Met Police spokesman said Duncan would show the boys pornographic

material before forcing them to perform sex acts.

The spokesman added that officers established that he had offended across west London and the Home Counties.

Duncan was arrested on August 4, 2016. Computers were seized and found to contain indecent images.

Officers also discovered several diaries that were kept by Duncan which corroborated the allegations.

He was charged in mid-August 2017.

DCI John Foulkes, of CASO, urged any other people who may have been abused by Duncan to speak to police.

He added: "Given the number of victims and offences that Duncan has admitted to, it cannot be ruled out that there are other victims who have yet to contact police."

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Barnet Child Abuse and Sexual Offences team on 020 8733 5139.

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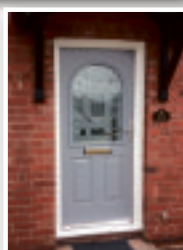
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Crocodile shock for police on drugs raid



POLICE officers who raided a Westcliff property as part of a Basildon drugs operation came face to face with a 4ft crocodile.

Officers raided the home in Burdett Avenue, Westcliff, on the afternoon of Wednesday, January 24.

The raid was connected to the investigation of an alleged cannabis factory found in an industrial unit at Cranes Farm Road, Basildon, in 2015.

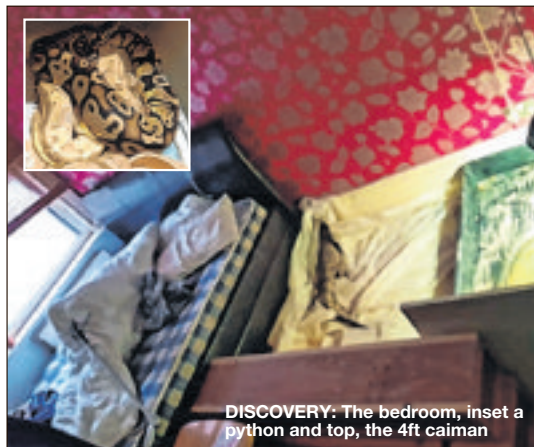
In a bedroom inside, they found the spectacled caiman crocodile and 16 live snakes.

Nine of the snakes were classes as "dangerous wild animals", including cobras, copperheads, pythons and a Madagascan giant hognose.

They also found a scorpion plus seven dead snakes.

The live animals were transferred to an RSPCA rescue centre.

A 36-year-old man from Basildon was arrested on sus-



DISCOVERY: The bedroom, inset a python and top, the 4ft caiman

picion of producing cannabis, keeping a dangerous animal without a licence, and animal cruelty offences.

He has been bailed until February 13, pending further enquiries.

Anyone with information about the case can call the Serious Organised Crime Unit by dialling 101.

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Lest we forget

Photos Martin Dalton



By Michael Cox

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EVENTS were held in Basildon and Rayleigh to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.

The day, which remembers the victims of the Holocaust and all other genocides since, was commemorated in Basildon by a Book of Remembrance, signed by residents as well as Mayor David Harrison.

Staff and visitors to the Basildon Centre took part in a one minute silence at 11am on Friday.

The Basildon Big Sing Choir, made up of council employees, marked the occasion by singing with the Rayleigh Big Sing Choir and pupils from St Anne Line Junior School in the Eastgate Centre.

A service was also held outside the Mill Arts and Events Centre in Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh.



It was conducted by Revd Richard Iles, chaplain to the Chairman of Rochford District Council and featured readings by Jack de Metz from the Southend and Westcliff Hebrew Congregation and students from the district's secondary schools.

Attendees then proceeded inside the centre for a talk by Holocaust survivor Leslie Kleinman, who was awarded a British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours list.

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Council U-turn on change to school catchment areas

SOUTHEND Council has made a U-turn on plans to change catchment areas for some schools in Leigh.

The council had proposed amendments to catchments concerning West Leigh, Leigh North Street and Chalkwell Hall schools in a bid to address forecasted oversubscription.

In a report before Cabinet, it was revealed that more recent figures suggested the number of 2016/17 births was below the published admission numbers (PAN) needed for West Leigh.

This was also the case at Leigh North Street, and the report said that concern over births exceeding PAN was one of the main reasons for the consultation.

The number of 2016/17 births exceeds 2021/22 PAN at Chalkwell Hall, but the report said the risk of oversubscription was mitigated by a percentage of applicants choosing two other schools nearby, as well as an increase in PAN.

Parents had also been opposed to catchment changes, according to the report, which revealed that the majority of



MORE DATA: Cllr James Courtenay Photo by Martin Dalton

responses from south Leigh schools wanted to have no change.

Cllr James Courtenay, executive councillor for children and learning, said: "We now have additional data to what we had at the outset of this process suggesting the risk of oversubscription for certain schools is significantly reduced."

"This new indicative data, along with overwhelming

opposition to change, means that we no longer have a compelling case for changing catchment areas south of the London Road.

"Whilst some areas will always remain susceptible to oversubscription, the data no longer shows significant enough issues to make such fundamental changes that will affect so many."

"I have said all along that we cannot make a decision that will please everyone, and although I do absolutely feel for those to the west of West Leigh catchment who supported proposed change, we can only base our view on the evidence in front of us at that given time, the views expressed to us from the consultation, and with respect to the Admissions Code."

Councillors agreed to retain the same 2018 catchments for those schools at the meeting on Monday.

A council spokesman said cabinet agreed to a "small" change to the catchment area for Fairways Primary School, removing four roads from the south-east of it.

Vet in charity chin-up challenge

A SOUTHEND vet is to attempt 1,000 chin-ups in seven hours to raise money for charity.

Oliver Duprey, 36, is taking on the challenge to generate cash for national disability charity, Sense and The Wilderness Foundation UK, which aims to save wilderness areas.

The challenge will take place at his home on Monday, February 12.

Oliver said: "I was looking to test my endurance and the 1,000 chin-up challenge was perfect."

"With my love for climbing, an intense upper body challenge was the best choice to raise money for a good cause."

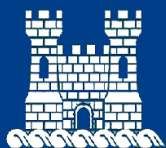
"My training regime so far has been based around my normal climbing training but I have done specific chin-up training too with 250 completed the other day."

He has so far raised £630 and is hoping to reach a target of £1,000.

To sponsor Oliver, visit <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/OliverDuprey>.



LIFT: Oliver Duprey aims to complete 1,000 chin-ups in seven hours



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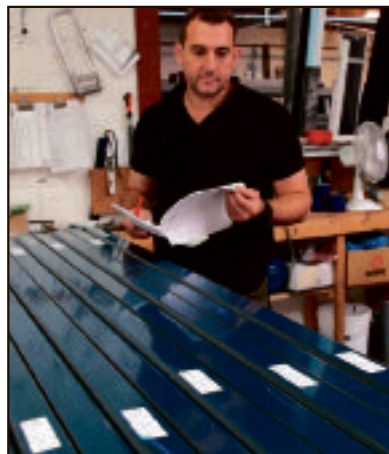
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Burglars jailed for knife attack on man at home

TWO men have been jailed for a total of more than 23 years after stabbing a man during a break-in at his home in Southend.

James Ritchie, 33, of Hastings Road, and William Nolan, 39, of Jones Close, both Southend, were sentenced at Southend Crown Court after previously being found guilty of aggravated burglary.

The court heard the pair went into the victim's home – a multi-occupancy house in York Road – on January 15 last year.

The 27-year-old found the two men inside when he walked through the door.

Ritchie and Nolan demanded he handed over money before punching him. The victim was also stabbed in the leg during a struggle that ensued.

The victim also suffered bruising and scratching to his arms, legs, back, head, and hands as well as a cut nose and swollen eye. His room was ransacked and £125 and a mobile phone stolen.



JAIL: James Ritchie



SENTENCE: William Nolan

Nolan was jailed for 11 years and 260 days last Tuesday and Ritchie was jailed for 12 years on Friday, January 19.

DC Andy Copley said: "This was a particularly nasty incident involving a sustained

attack on the victim who was not only violently assaulted, but was also stabbed in the leg. We will continue to robustly target those committing such crimes by putting them behind bars where they belong."

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Councillors back critical report over plan for stroke unit

SOUTHEND councillors have backed a report which criticised plans to create a specialist stroke unit for mid and south Essex at Basildon Hospital rather than Southend.

The proposal for a hyper acute stroke unit (HASU) in Basildon is included in the plans outlined by the Mid and South Essex Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP).

The plans for the future of healthcare in the region are out to public consultation and council cabinet members met on Monday to discuss their response.

They agreed to support the STP plans but only on the condition that a "satisfactory conclusion" is reached for council comments in a report before the meeting.

Plans for the HASU were questioned in the report, which said: "The clinical evidence to support the rationale for the incorporation of the Hyper Acute Stroke Unit at Basildon Hospital is unclear and poorly documented in the consultation document."

The report also proposes the council seeks further information from the STP over plans to help it "understand why the incorporation of the HASU is not based around Southend Hospital given the strong track record Southend has in delivering stroke services."

It also said the plans are "unclear" over transport and transfers, as well as for how "a consolidated discharge and repatriation process" would work.

The report outlined concerns over the viability of acute reconfiguration without appropriate investment in localities.

The STP did not reply to the *Y&A*'s request for a response at the time of going to press.

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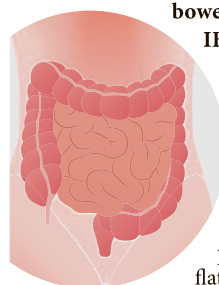
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Intestinal problems are no illusion

Scientists get to the bottom of it

Approximately 13 million people in the UK suffer from an irritated bowel, the so-called Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS). In the past, people affected were repeatedly labelled as hypochondriacs. Wrongly so! Scientists have found a possible cause for an irritated bowel. But more importantly: they also found a promising relief for IBS, called Kijimea IBS.



IBS: Only one's imagination?

People suffering from an irritated bowel are consistently plagued by bloating, flatulence, diarrhoea or abdominal pain – sometimes

alternately, often even simultaneously. For many people affected, a large part of their quality of life is lost. What is almost as severe: Many sufferers feel that their problems are not taken seriously. All too often they are labelled as hypochondriacs. Are they only making up their intestinal problems? Nowadays, scientists say no.

Potential cause: a damaged intestinal barrier

More and more researchers today assume that the typical intestinal problems are

caused by a damaged intestinal barrier. The damages enable pollutants and pathogens to penetrate the intestinal wall, triggering the typical symptoms such as bloating or flatulence, diarrhoea or abdominal pain. Luckily, researchers also discovered a unique bifidobacteria strain which can help (only in Kijimea IBS).

Effective treatment: a globally unique bifidobacterium

Under the direction of the renowned Prof. Dr. S. Guglielmetti, a team of scientists found out that the bifidobacteria strain B. bifidum MIMBb75, contained in Kijimea IBS (only available over the pharmacist counter), attaches itself directly to the intestinal wall. Symbolically, it covers the intestinal wall like a plaster. The effectiveness of Kijimea IBS has been shown in a clinical study. During the study most IBS symptoms did not only significantly

improve due to Kijimea IBS, but in some cases also disappeared. Furthermore, the bifidobacterium included in Kijimea IBS is the only one worldwide that simultaneously showed an increase in the quality of life of most IBS patients.

Now available in the UK – Kijimea IBS

In many other countries, Kijimea IBS has already proven to be successful. This product is now available in the UK, too. Kijimea IBS is prescription free available over the pharmacist counter and has no known side effects.



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The photo in this advertisement contains a model, not an IBS patient. If symptoms worsen and/or persist, consult a doctor. For more information visit www.kijimea.co.uk

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Our Lady of Lourdes requires improvement

A LEIGH primary school has come out of special measures – but 'requires improvement'.

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, in Manchester Drive, was visited by Ofsted inspectors in December and their report was published last week. The school, which had been given the regulator's lowest rating 'inadequate' at its last inspection in 2016, was officially brought out of special measures, after a visit in May found safeguarding to be "effective".

Interim executive

headteacher Sally Nutman was appointed in September – she is also headteacher at Sacred Heart Primary School in Southend.

In the latest report, inspectors found that teaching at the school was inconsistent, something that was recognised by the school's leaders. The report said pupils don't make enough progress in science, geography and history, and said some teachers "don't consistently adhere to recently introduced strategies".

It said: "Some teachers don't have high

enough expectations of pupils and work is too easy. Considerable numbers of very able and articulate pupils do not show their full potential in their work."

Early years leadership also needed improvement accord-

ing to the inspectors, who wrote: "Leaders have not acted swiftly enough to ensure children receive the best education they can."

The inspectors did find that the school's governors had acted "swiftly and decisively" to address areas of

improvement. The report also said the behaviour of pupils was good and they were very polite.

Inspectors said: "Pupils thrive in the positive... and caring school environment."

The school did not comment.



INADEQUATE: Our Lady of Lourdes Primary

Taxi driver death 'not suspicious', say police

POLICE have said that a man's death after an incident in Shoburyness last summer is 'not suspicious'.

At around 10.15pm on Wednesday, August 30, Tony Kemp, 65, from Great Wakering, was found injured in Ness Road and was taken to hospital but

later died.

An Essex Police spokesman said: "Following a thorough investigation, including a number of forensic medical examinations, the death is not suspicious."

The spokesman added that two 16-year-old girls and an 18-year-old woman, who

were arrested on suspicion of GBH, have been told they will face no further action. A spokesman for the Essex coroner's office confirmed Mr Kemp's case was recorded as 'Form B', meaning no inquest is required.

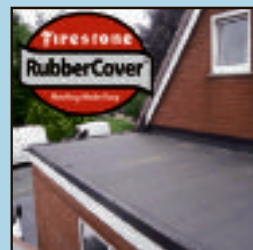
His cause of death was recorded as hypoxic encephalopathy and

ischemic heart disease. Essex Police originally said Mr Kemp suffered head injuries prior to his death.

But a spokesman said this week: Mr Kemp hit his head when falling to the floor but this did not cause his death.

"We've never said his cause of death was a head injury."

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Peafowl and party political interests...

JULIAN Ware-Lane, in his letter to the *Yellow Advertiser*, January 26, writes of how bitterly upset he is by the decision to keep the peafowl caged in Chalkwell Park.

Doubtless he is sincere in his complaint.

Anyone who knows anything at all about Cllr Ware-Lane knows that he cares deeply about the welfare of birds.

However, he needs to be careful. By closing his letter with an appeal for readers to "consider very carefully when voting in May's local elections," he makes it possible for cynical minds to conclude that Cllr Ware-Lane too has a cynical mind and is cheaply presenting himself as a compassionate soul purely as a tactic to advance his own political party's interests.

Jason Pilley
Southend

It's time to sort out this Brexit mess

KEITH "Brexit or Bust" Knight confidently proclaims that leaving the EU is simple and all the talk about settling our commitments, negotiating trade deals, transition periods

and an end deal with a final possible vote for the people is all an unnecessary smoke-screen put up by those who cannot accept that the UK is leaving the EU, (YA, Letters Jan 26)

This while even the British Government – getting on for two years after the referendum – cannot yet decide what sort of Brexit would be for the best after almost half-a-century of enlightened entwined political European Union co-operation.

So much for a simple 2016 referendum question designed to keep the Conservative Party together for the 2010 General Election and the country go hang, that has opened up so many more that need answering over an issue that has divided our nation and put the very existence of the United Kingdom at stake ... or our democracy has been reduced to idiocy.

Divided the nation along generational lines that Mr Knight simply interprets as ghoulishly wishing older people dead all the sooner.

It is all so simple to Keith ... the people have spoken ... they knew what they were voting for if no one else did ... so just get out and take it from there ... no matter that the people were lied to by the Leave campaign.

And don't say that many were not taken for a ride by that big red bus when the director of that campaign himself, Dominic Cummings, has sheepishly admitted that Leave wouldn't have won without it.

And don't say both sides lied

... Leave won ... get over it. It's time for a rethink to sort out this mess.

John Haran
Leigh-on-Sea

Being made a laughing stock

WE voted to come out of the EU to control our borders and make our own laws rather than being dictated to by the unelected leaders of the European Union.

I for one was daft enough to think that our Government had a backbone and was intelligent enough to negotiate the exit.

However, I never thought that the EU would make us look like a weak and failing nation rather than a great and proud Britain.

Our Government is making a laughing stock of us all and this is supported by those who still refuse to support the majority of the UK people.

It's time to show that we are strong and maybe it is time to stick our fingers up at Europe and not as Churchill did for victory, but in defiance and as a show of strength.

I say stuff Europe! Let's just leave and trade with the rest of the world and those countries within Europe that are willing to trade on OUR terms.

Let's get back control or get rid of those that are failing to represent Britain's wishes.

Keith Little
Benfleet

Wonderful orchard wassailing

IT was a lovely sunny January Sunday at the St Laurence Orchard and time for the annual wassailing, an ancient custom to encourage the orchard trees to produce good fruits for the coming growing year.

This was the fourth wassailing held at the St Laurence Orchard.

The singing and optimism for good health is so welcome in our fast moving and pressured world.

Our thanks to Trust Links and all those who maintain this wonderful and ancient custom.

Cllr Mark Flewitt,
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and Cllr Steve Buckley

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Knowing that Barnardo's provides carers with ongoing support and training to help them when the going gets a little tough means they can be reassured there's always someone there for them.

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We also have a network of foster carers which stretches across the UK and is a veritable gold mine of advice and experience all our carers can tap into.

As a Barnardo's foster carer you're never alone – there's always someone to pass on their own experience, advice or offer friendship.

Taking the first step towards fostering can often be the most daunting but our experts are on hand to explain what's involved and the next steps on your journey.

At Barnardo's we often think of our foster carers as

superheroes but the reality is that they're ordinary people doing something extraordinary because they've taken the decision to open up their families to look after vulnerable children.

If you're interested in fostering, please do visit our website at www.barnardos.org.uk and let us reassure you that we will be with you every step of the way.

Javed Khan
Barnardo's Chief Executive

Just about as random as it gets

I HAVE recently been on three cruises and have often wondered how the ships get rid of their waste – wine bottles, water bottles etc.

Some ships can travel from Southampton to Jamaica. That can take a few days.

Also, the pound has been good against the dollar and the euro so why has the price of petrol been creeping up month after month?

The garages seem to have it all their own way.

Mr F Walker
Eastwood

■ We welcome letters and e-mails on all subjects. Please keep them to fewer than 250 words and include your full name, address and daytime telephone number, wherever possible, for verification. Anonymous letters will not be accepted for publication. Contributions may be edited for reasons of space. The opinions expressed on this page are not necessarily those of this newspaper. Write to: Letters To The Editor, Yellow Advertiser, Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1AH or e-mail us at: letters@yellowad.co.uk



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Valentine's Day

Spend wisely on romance

MORE than half (56 per cent) of adults bought gifts for a partner on Valentine's Day last year, research suggests – spending on average £27 each, American Express reveals.

And it wasn't just partners receiving Valentine's treats – some people (19 per cent of the 2,000 surveyed) showered their pets with gifts too (spending £5 on average).

Planning to show the love by dipping into your wallet this February 14? American Express offers these top tips for avoiding Valentine's Day overspend:

1. Swap dinner for brunch or lunch

If you are planning to dine out on Valentine's Day, the time of day you

eat out can influence the bill, so why not mix it up and go out for brunch or lunch instead of the traditional evening meal.

Often restaurants have lunch specials during the week, and avoiding peak times guarantees a more intimate setting.

2. Meaningful gifts

Is your loved one notoriously tricky to buy for? Consider getting them a personalised present – from jewellery engraved with their initials, to a bottle of wine from your anniversary year – a meaningful gift has endless possibilities.

3. Check for last-minute tickets

If you and your loved one fancy a spontaneous date, a last-minute theatre visit could be just the ticket.

Often you can get dis-

counted seats for theatre, ballet or comedy shows if you buy them the morning of the performance.

4. Share the love

Valentine's Day doesn't always have to be just for two – so why not organise a group dinner or trip with friends and family?

Holding a group get-together also means you can split the cost between more people, although perhaps check whether your partner is OK with this first.

5. Points make presents

Whether it's your partner or pet that you're spoiling this Valentine's Day, check how many points you've accrued on your credit, charge or loyalty card, as you might be able to redeem them for some gifts.



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Valentine's Day

Romantic meals for lovers

If you are looking for a place to enjoy a romantic meal this Valentine's Day then you are spoilt for choice in the area. Nothing marks February 14 better than a wonderful meal of mouth-watering cuisine. With restaurants throughout the area putting on a fine selection of offerings, from set meals and champagne packages, to fantastic entertainment, you really are spoilt for choice this year. Whether you want to mark the occasion with an Indian banquet fit for royalty or a taste of the Orient at one of the county's many Chinese restaurants, there is plenty of choice to fit a range of budgets.

There are also a wide range of bars and grills, steakhouses, bistros and Italian restaurants to choose from, many of which have extensive websites to explore. If you prefer à la carte, seafood or French cuisine then opt for a more specialist restaurant, or choose to dine out during the day and take in a range of fantastic locations in the area from beautiful villages to coastal settings. If you would rather enjoy some fantastic cuisine in the comfort of your own home then don't forget many restaurants have outstanding takeaway services so you can enjoy their delicious dishes anywhere you please.



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Wednesday 14th Feb

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Advertisement feature

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Turkish delight

Advertisement feature

LOKANTA is the family-owned restaurant that offers an authentic Turkish dining experience like no other.

Mediterranean life revolves around the dinner table, and it was here that Lokanta founder Hakan Vetchi's passion for cooking was born.

Hakan has been in the restaurant trade all his life and comes from a family of restaurateurs. He has owned restaurants for 21 years and loves the naturally healthy Mediterranean diet the restaurant offers.

Today, you can savour the same recipes that his family have followed for generations at Lokanta, just the way Baba used to make!

Turkey has an diverse culture, taking influences from its surrounding neighbours and this is reflected in the huge variation of eating habits across the region.

The Lokanta menu showcases the very best of southern and eastern cuisine, combining salads, pastas, fish, vegan and veg-



etarian dishes with the traditional grilled meats you would expect to find at a Turkish restaurant.

The restaurant is opposite Southend Airport and has a lovely terrace outside where you could watch the planes come and go.

We pride ourselves on our diverse menu, which contains countless speciality dishes guaranteed to satisfy any palate with a wealth of vegan and vegetarian

options available.

We use only the finest ingredients, blending fresh, locally sourced produce with a myriad of items, specially selected and imported from the Mediterranean to ensure the authenticity of every dish.

Bookings are being taken for Valentine's Day. There will be live saxophone music, £35 per person for a special Valentine's menu and a rose for the ladies.



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Valentine's Menu

Soup of love

Homemade roasted red pepper & tomato soup laced with Vodka

Or

Sharing Is Caring (for 2)

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Main Course

Chicken Delight

Stuffed Chicken breast with spinach and wild mushroom served with red wine sauce

Love me tender

80z Sirloin steak, served with grilled mushroom, tomato & pepper sauce

Drive me wild

Wild mushroom risotto with parmesan shavings and heart croutons

Sea of love

Pan fried cod served with capers, lemon butter, chunky chips & pea puree

Desserts

A selection of taste bud teasing homemade Desserts

**Only £26.95 for 2 includes
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Call: 01702 467152 to book now



Wednesday 14th Feb

Advertisement feature



THE Regatta Restaurant has been serving exquisite food since its opening in January 2015.

Since then it has become the byword for locally sourced fresh food served in relaxed and elegant surroundings.

Now, The Regatta has a fabulous new offer, bringing you the opportunity to

experience stylish dining whilst bringing your own fizz or wine, with a carefully crafted three-course menu at only £22.50 every Friday.

This is a reservation-only offer, so make sure you telephone the restaurant to book your place! The restaurant, family-owned by brothers Paddy and Brian Kerr, prides itself on providing excellent service

and a mixture of both classic and contemporary British cuisine.

Bookings are now being taken for Valentine's Night with a three-course menu and a glass of prosecco for £28.50 per person.

To book your table telephone 01702 478768 or make an enquiry at the premises at 157 Leigh Road, Leigh-on-Sea.

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LIFESTYLE

Steel pulse

By Lewis Berrill

features@yellowad.co.uk

MARK Steel's new UK comedy tour – Every Little Thing's Gonna Be Alright – stops off at the Palace Theatre, Westcliff-on-Sea, on Friday, March 16.

It's been a bizarre few years. Along with a myriad of surprises and absurdities, he has suffered the shock of divorce from his wife of 11 years.

Not long ago, as he explains, it seemed highly unlikely the UK would vote to leave the EU; Donald Trump was a buffoon who surely was not going to beat Hilary Clinton; and Steel was living the married suburban ideal. A year later, it has all gone horribly wrong. But don't worry, as he thinks Every Little Thing's Gonna Be Alright.

Steel, who grew up in Swanley, Kent, started doing stand-up in 1982 on a circuit of "bizarre" gigs, often performing after jugglers and escapologists who "banged nails into their ears".

In 1992 he came into the public eye presenting a satirical radio show, The Mark Steel Solution, on BBC Radio 5, consisting of half-hour monologues offering solutions to social problems.

He has also worked as a columnist for The Guardian, and The Independent – winning Columnist of the Year at the Press Awards 2015.

He has presented the BAFTA-nominated Mark Steel Lectures for BBC2, and is a regular on BBC One's Have I Got News For You and Radio 4's News Quiz. He has also appeared on QI and Room 101 and written several books including Reasons To Be Cheerful and What's Going On.

Now the star of Radio 4's Mark Steel's In Town, currently in its eighth series, he is back on the road with a show guaranteed to make the world seem even more bizarre than it is.

He points out: "There's great comedy in things not turning out as you expect."

"For example, regardless of your politics, you have to be amused that someone so magnificently confident calls an unnecessary election and mucks it up. Now Theresa May can't even make a speech at her own conference without spluttering like a kid in a nativity play. That's funny, isn't it?"

The show also charts the demise of his marriage and he is capable of poking fun at the sillier aspects of the break-up.

Some of his wife's grounds for divorce lend

themselves to comedy: he never cut the privet (not a euphemism); he hadn't trained the dog; he went on tour; and he is obsessed with sport. "Guilty as charged," Steel admits.

"There was one night I said, 'I'm coming up to bed in a minute, but then realised, ooh the fencing is on. It wasn't just any old tournament, it was Hungary versus Italy.'"

Refreshingly he understands that everything in life has a funny side to it, even painful events. "It doesn't cheer you up or make you laugh, but you know it'll make an audience laugh because they recognise the truth of it."

The show is not about him putting his side of things. "That would be unfair. It's about the process of what happens when a marriage goes wrong."

"It seemed idyllic, our suburban life living just outside Brighton, and then someone's furious with you and everything falls apart." Mark now lives in London with his son, Elliot, 21, who is also a stand-up, and his 17-year-old daughter.

"I'm quite chirpy at the moment. I rang home the other day and Elliot was doing the washing and I thought, 'Ah, life's nice, isn't it?'"

Tickets can be purchased online at <http://www.southendtheatres.org.uk>.



STAND UP:
Mark Steel

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PHANTOM THREAD (15, 130 mins)

DANIEL Day-Lewis wears success like an impeccably tailored suit. He is the most feted male performer of any generation in terms of Oscars glory in a leading role with three golden statuettes on the mantelpiece for transformative performances in *My Left Foot*, *There Will Be Blood* and *Lincoln*.

Day-Lewis's willingness to suffer for his art and immerse himself in the day-to-day toil of his characters is the stuff of feverishly shared legend.

He remained in a wheelchair during filming of *My Left Foot*, refusing to break character even to feed himself. He endured physical pain in bruising on-screen bouts in *The Boxer* and denied himself sustenance and sleep to convincingly portray an exhausted Gerry Conlon in *In The Name Of The Father*.

Day-Lewis delivers his final screen performance before self-imposed retirement as a perfectionist dressmaker in Paul Thomas Anderson's artfully stitched drama, which is set in the salons of 1950s London.

It is another flawless embodiment of the emotionally crippled male psyche, deliciously complicated by an ambiguous sexuality and a softly-spoken fastidiousness that doesn't extend to personal relationships... except for an uncomfortably close bond to a ferocious, purse-lipped sister, played with scorching intensity by Lesley Manville.



They are a formidable double act and you genuinely fear for the sanity of anyone who naively strays into the siblings' tortuous web.

The balance of power appears to be weighted in favour of the fairer sex.

"Don't pick a fight with me, you certainly won't come out alive," threatens the sister during one contretemps. "I'll go right through you and it'll be you who ends up on the floor. Understood?"

Loud and clear.

Reynolds Woodcock (Day-Lewis) is the creative dynamo of a luxury fashion house, which regularly welcomes the upper echelons of society including Countess Henrietta Harding (Gina McKee) and Belgian bride-to-be, Princess Mona Braganza (Lujza Richter).

His sister Cyril (Manville) presides over the seamstresses and also manages her brother's romantic vacillations, ridding the household of his bothersome companion, Johanna (Camilla Rutherford).

During a seaside break between commissions, "confirmed bachelor" Reynolds embarks on a whirlwind affair with sweet-natured waitress Alma (Vicky Krieps).

"I feel as if I've been looking for you for a very long time," he coos to his new muse.

Alma's swift introduction to Reynolds's life in the capital puts her on a collision course with Cyril and her lover's impossibly demanding nature.

Phantom Thread is a slow-burning study of competing obsessions.

"Whatever you do, do it carefully," Alma tells Reynolds during a cliff-top stroll and writer-director Anderson heeds his heroine's words, observing his superlative cast in long, unhurried takes as they trade verbal blows.

Krieps has the least showy role of the central trio, but holds her own against the imperious tag team of Day-Lewis and Manville.

Two's toxic company, three's a potentially murderous crowd.

Released: February 2
RATING: 8.5/10



Daniel Day-Lewis as Reynolds Woodcock and Lesley Manville as Cyril

PA Photo/Focus Features/Universal Pictures/Laurie Sparham

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WHAT'S ON

To have your event considered for publication, send the details AT LEAST 10 DAYS before the issue date to: **What's On, Yellow Advertiser, Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, SS14 1AH.** You can e-mail us at: letters@yellowad.co.uk PLEASE NOTE: We cannot guarantee that all entries will be included. However, you can add the details of your event to our website at www.yellowad.co.uk

Friday, February 2

■ Preview – Downstairs at the rear of The RNA Club, 73-79 East Street, Prittlewell, Southend, SS2 6LQ. Cheap Joint, 8.30pm to midnight. Life membership £1.
■ Counselling Service – The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
■ Overeaters Anonymous Basildon Group – Nevenden Community Hall, St Peter's Church, Church Lane, Basildon, SS13 1BZ. 8pm, Colin, 07446 080054.
■ George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s, beginners tai chi: 10am to noon, darts: 2-4pm, marquetry: 10 to noon, art: 12.30-2.30pm. Snooker and bingo, £2, 01268 465854.
■ Sequence Dancing – George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s, 2.15-3.15pm, 01268 465854.
■ Book Club – George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s, 10-11am, 01268 465854.
■ Drama Classes – Helen O'Grady Drama Academy, The Stables, Chalkwell Park Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, not a stage school, designed to increase children's life skills, to enrol call Dina 01245 328680.
■ Table Tennis – Laindon Community Centre, Aston Road, off High Street, for over-50s, 11am-1pm, 07931 564105.

Saturday, February 3

■ South East Essex Ramblers – Walk the sea wall at Wakering Stairs, six miles, start 10am. Free parking Gt Wakering Sports Centre, far car park by football field, SS3 0HZ. Details: 07860 738777.
■ Saturday Club – for people with special needs, 9am to noon, games, music, arts, crafts. Ages 14 upwards, Frypa Hall, The Fryth, Basildon. 01268 415409.
■ Counselling service – The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.

■ Yugioh Club – play and trade yugioh, 120 Southend Road, St Catherine's Church Hall, Wickford, SS11 8EB, mini-tournaments, 1.30-4.20pm. 07965 671289.
■ Saturday Morning Club – St Michael's Church Hall, Leigh Road, 10am to noon, free entry, 01702 437863.

Sunday, February 4

■ South East Essex Ramblers – five miles, to Essex Wildlife Sanctuary, 10am, meet Conrad Road, Stanford-le-Hope. SS17 0AT. Details: 07860 738777.
■ Ron Spack's Dinner Jazz Duo – Woodmans Arms, Rayleigh Road, Thundersley, 1pm. 01268 775799.
■ Brush Strokes Art Group – Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh-on-Sea, 9.15am-12.15pm, 01277 627043.
■ Exercise Class for stroke victims – St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend, 2.30pm. 01702 612509.
■ Sunday School – The Ark, Hadleigh Methodist Church, Chapel Lane, SS7 2PQ, 11am to noon, ages three to 10. Call 07585 601815 or 07967 913344.
■ Quaker Meeting for silent worship and meditation – Quaker Meeting House, Dundonald Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, 10.30-11.30am, followed by conversation.
■ King's Church, Southend – Blenheim School, off Blenheim Chase, Leigh, 10.30am to noon, 01702 523639.
■ Greek Community of Southend & District, Church of St Barbara, St Phanourios and St Paul's, Salisbury Ave, Westcliff, 10am to noon. 01702 466435.
■ Sunday Club – TGH Evangelical Church, Kiln Road, Thundersley, (ages three to 12), 10.45-11.45am, details 01702 554904.
■ Mojo Friendship Club – Travellers' Joy, Downhall Road, Rayleigh, details Mo 07757 658799.

Monday, February 5

■ Walking football sessions – Civic Hall, Grays, 6-7pm. £2 per session.
■ Ron Spack's Jazztet – Brian Giles, trumpet/Alex Boyle, keyboard, Oakwood, Rayleigh Road, Eastwood, Southend, 8.30pm. Details 01702 512819.
■ Bowls – FS&S Club, Gardiners Close, Basildon. All-weather green, free coaching, details call Chris 01268 419831.
■ Green bowls – Mopsies Park, Vange, details 01268 558756.
■ Coffee Morning and sale of goods – Christ Church, Wickford, 9am to noon.
■ Club 50+ – 1B Queen's Road, Southend, 9.30am-3.30pm, daily, £2 day pass, details 01702 346863.
■ Sunshine Coffee Morning – for parents

in Craylands and Felmores area. Briscoe Community Centre, 9-11am, free workshop, coffee and creche. Call 07880 025968, or just turn up.

■ Dance Class – usually six-week course, ballroom, Latin American, Ashington and East Hawkwell Memorial Hall. Info: 01702 546219/542349.

■ Leigh Scrabble Club – 7-10pm. Wesley Hall, Leigh Broadway, Leigh-on-Sea. Turn up or call 01268 727915.

■ Senior Citizens Club – Richmond Hall, Benfleet, 1.30-3.30pm.

■ Counselling Service – Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.

■ Over-50s Keep-fit Classes – Fryerns Community Centre, Pat 01268 770294.

■ Duplicate Bridge – Balmoral Bridge Club, Highlands Methodist Church, Olive Avenue, Leigh (opp Thames Drive), 1.15pm-4.30pm, call 01702 343611 or 01702 520993.

■ Duplicate Bridge – Thorpe Bay Bridge Club, 62 Southchurch Blvd, Southend, all standards, 2-4.45pm (no partner needed), 7.30-10.30pm, call Danny 07843 771774.

■ Weekly Craft Workshop – St Peter's Church Hall, Thundersley, 6-8pm, Michelle 07730 582784.

■ Basildon Players Amateur Dramatic Group – 8-10pm, Bowers and Pitsea Football Club, Crown Avenue, Pitsea. SS13 2BE. 07913 426371, join@basildonplayers.co.uk.

■ Zumba – Pitsea Day Centre Over-50s, Northlands Pavement, Pitsea, 9.15-10am. 01268 465432.

■ Short Mat Bowls Club in Hadleigh – welcomes new members, Canvey Short Mat Bowls Club, call Kevin 01268 792433.

■ Short Mat Bowls, Thundersley, beginners welcome, details 01268 779174.

■ Indoor Short Mat Bowls – Prittlewell Bowls Club, Priory Park, Southend, Ray 01268 777666.

■ Indoor Bowls – George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for over-50s, Monday 2-4pm, 01268 465854.

■ Whist – George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for over-50s, 10am to noon, details 01268 465854.

■ Senior Citizens Club – Ghyllgrove Centre, Butneys, 1.30-3.30pm, 01268 293995.

■ Evening of clairvoyance – 57 Point Road, Canvey, SS8 7TT. 3pm, £3 all profits to charity. Tel: 07922 001433 or 01268 691922.

■ Development Healing Circle – Face Salon, Burdett Avenue, Westcliff, understanding of spiritual healing and prayer, 8-9.30pm, 07879 004744.

■ Fitness Walking – from Leigh Tennis Club, Highlands Boulevard, Leigh-on-Sea, 7.15-8.15pm, 01702 715509.

■ Scrabble Club – Wesley Church Hall, Elm Road, Leigh Broadway, no partner needed, 7-10pm, £3, call 01268 727915.

■ Hadleigh Castle Townswomen's Guild Appliance Hall, Old Fire Station, High Street SS7 2PA, 1.30-3.30pm. Visitors £2.50.

■ IT help sessions – Billerica Library, 10.30am to noon. Details 01277 624624.

Tuesday, February 6

■ Computer help session – Billerica Library, 10.30am to noon. Free. 01277 624624.

■ Painting class – The Studio, Glebelands Nursery, Hawkwell, Hockley, SS5 4JY, 10.30am-12.30pm. Details 01702 30717.

■ Yoga Class – Thorpedene Community Centre, Delaware Road, Shoeburyness, 7-8.30pm, £6, bring a blanket and yoga mat, ages 16-plus. 07961 314983.

■ Social Dance Class – ballroom, Latin American and sequence, 8.30-10.30pm, Ashington and East Hawkwell Memorial Hall. 01702 546219/542349.

■ Craft Group – Oasis Coffee House, 189 Leigh Rd, Leigh. 2.30-4pm. 01702 471873.

■ Social Dance – 1.45pm, St Cedd's Church, Bridgewater Drive, Westcliff. Ballroom, sequence, Latin, 01702 618771.

■ Evening of clairvoyance – St Cecilia's Christian Spiritualist Church, 9 Lord Roberts Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea, 7.15pm, £2.50.

■ Folk Music – The Hoy at Anchor Folk Club, Royal British Legion, 7/9 Northview Drive, Westcliff, 8pm. 01702 715111.

■ Singles Social Group – The Mews, Nelson Mews off Clarence Road car park, Southend, age 50-plus, 8pm. 07970 432994.

■ Singles Friendship Club for 50-plus – South Benfleet Social Club, 8.15pm, details Maureen 01268 692998.

■ Table Top Sale – Outpatients Foyer, Southend Hospital, 9.30am-3pm. Breathe Easy Southend, helping support people with lung problems. 01702 258861.

■ Pathfinders Blind and Partially Sighted Group – Fryerns Baptist Church, Whitmore Way, Basildon, SS14 2TJ, 9.30am-2pm.

■ Little Lunchers Activity Club – St Michael's Church, Rayleigh, 11.45am-1.15pm.

■ Top Cats Social Club (Southend Mencap) – Castle View School, Meppel Avenue, Canvey, 7-9.45pm, for adults with learning disabilities age 25-plus, £2 per session, details 01702 341250.

■ Vange Tots – Vange Community Centre, Vange Hill Drive, Vange, 9.30-11.30am, admission £1, snack and drinks provided for all. 01268 498642.

■ Table Tennis – 7.30-10.30pm, The Megacentre, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, £3.60 per session.

■ Walking netball sessions – Civic Hall, Grays, 9-10am. £2 per session.

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11th July 2018 – 8 days - £689.00

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DAY EXCURSIONS

FEBRUARY

15thV & A Museum
15thHarrods & Knightsbridge
18thCamden Market
22ndNatural History Museum
22ndScience Museum
23rdChippenhams Park Snowdrops
24thCanterbury
24thRoyal Tunbridge Wells
27thTate Britain

MARCH

1st – 4th...Knitting & Stitching Show
6thBrighton
6thWorthing
7thWestfield Shopping Centre
10thCrufts
13thCheltenham Races
13thMaidstone
14thBury St Edmunds
15thCambridge
15thEly

POTTERS RESORT HOPTON-ON-SEA

16th April – 5 days - £329.00

5 days – includes full board
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EXTRA DATE

FRIDAY 30 MARCH 8.00PM



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Ann's £38,000 fundraising efforts are really taking off

SUPER fundraiser Ann Martinelli has been celebrating an incredible 12 months which has seen her contribute more than £38,000 to the charity Ovarian Cancer Action.

Since being diagnosed in May 2015, the sales and lettings consultant has been continuing her battle with ovarian cancer with the help of her employer Airport Lettings and best friend and fellow fundraiser Sue Richardson.

To coincide with Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, Ann and Sue organised a charity walk on March 25 last year which attracted more than 70 people and raised more than £8,000.

The event was part of the Ovarian Cancer Action's national Walked In Her Name campaign which saw hundreds of supporters take more than 11 million steps covering 5,692 miles – raising £50,000.

Ovarian Cancer Action carries out pioneering work to increase survival rates and ensure that vital screening is available sooner rather than later.

Ann said: "Diagnosed at stage three, I realised that there is

currently no screening and symptoms become evident far too late. Despite a relapse, I remain positive in the hope that the monies raised will someday help to find a cure."

Another big fundraiser was a music festival called Lodge Fest, which took place at Bury Lodge, Stansted, on October 21.

The event raised £6,000 – taking Ann's fundraising total for the year to more than £38,700.

Airport Lettings Managing Director Terry Farthing said: "Ann continues to be an inspiration to everyone here, as well as the wider community."

"Her tireless efforts have raised thousands of pounds for the fight against cancer, which will hopefully lead to fewer women dying from this dreadful disease."

Keep up to date with Ann's fundraising activity at www.facebook.com/ann.martinelli.14.

Airport Lettings is based at Stansted Airport, one of the UK's fastest growing airports.

For more than 18 years it has made the most of that connection to help match reliable tenants with discerning landlords.

www.airportlettings.co.uk



Ann Martinelli with fellow fundraiser and friend Sue Richardson and supporters

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benfleet@williamsanddonovan.com

Great Eastern Road, Hockley



Situated in the very heart of Hockley within very close walking distance to railway station with links to London Liverpool Street, local schools and High Street is this deceptively spacious three bedroom house with three good size bedrooms, lounge/diner, integral garage and own driveway. NO ONWARD CHAIN. Viewing advised. Our Ref: 14825.

EPC Rating: TBC.
£290,000

01702 200666

Truro Crescent, Rayleigh



Situated in a popular, quiet residential cul-de-sac is this well presented, three bedroom semi-detached house benefiting from having a conservatory, a rear garden measuring approximately 50ft, own driveway providing off-street parking and single garage. Walking distance to local schools, shops and local amenities. Our Ref 14962

EPC Rating: D
£327,500

01702 200666

Etheldore Avenue, Hockley



Situated on the much sought after countryside development is this six bedroom, three storey, detached family home boasting master suite with dressing room and en suite, 2nd floor accommodation with shower room, three reception rooms, large kitchen/breakfast room, double garage and own driveway providing off-street parking. Walking distance to mainline railway station, local schools and shops. Our Ref 14992

EPC Rating: C
£765,000

01702 200666

Park Road, Westcliff-On-Sea



Situated 0.4 miles from Southend Central mainline railway station is this ground floor two bedroom apartment benefiting from having a recently fitted kitchen and shower room, character split-level landing and off-street parking for one vehicle. Our Ref 14951

EPC Rating: F
£215,000

01702 200666

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Call Ian Williams or Colin Donovan for further details

Heddingham Place, Rectory Road, Rochford



A one double bedroom purpose built second floor flat which benefits from having a modern fitted kitchen, bathroom, double glazing and plenty of communal parking. Benefitting from a Lease of 169 years. The property is close to all local amenities. OFFERED WITH VACANT POSSESSION. KEYS HELD FOR VIEWINGS. Our Ref: 14939.

EPC Rating: C
£149,995

01702 200666

Kingston Road, Thundersley



This modern three bedroom semi-detached house is situated on the desirable Ashcroft Place development within catchment for the King John School and benefits from having a spacious lounge/diner; fully fitted kitchen with integrated appliances; en-suite to bedroom one; detached garage and un-overlooked rear garden. Our ref: 12236

EPC Rating: B.
Guide Price £360,000

01268 755252

Lower Park Road, Wickford



A truly immaculate three bedroomed luxury detached chalet which benefits from having a detached office, occupying a large, gated plot measuring approx. 130' x 110', and with a 1st floor bedroom suite measuring in excess of 34'. Offered with NO ONWARD CHAIN. Our ref: 10888

EPC Rating: C
Guide Price £600,000

01268 755252

Holtynge, South Benfleet



In a quiet sought after South Benfleet location is this well maintained two bedroom semi-detached bungalow which benefits from having a modern fitted kitchen with integrated appliances; 17' 3" lounge; conservatory; two double bedrooms; an un-overlooked 75' South backing rear garden and is offered with NO ONWARD CHAIN. Our Ref: 12207

EPC Rating: TBC
£300,000

01268 755252

Central Avenue, Canvey Island



Within walking distance of Benfleet station is this well maintained three bedroom semi-detached house. This property is conveniently located and benefits from having two reception rooms, ground floor cloakroom and a Westerly backing rear garden and would make an ideal first time buy or buy to let investment. Our ref: 12231

EPC Rating: TBC
£285,000

01268 755252

Chestnut Road, Vange



This very well maintained four bedroom semi-detached house is situated within easy access of local schools and shops and short walking distance to Pitsea station. The property also benefits from having a conservatory, garage and further parking. Our ref: 12240

EPC Rating: TBC
£329,995

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Stobart Air are recruiting pilots and cabin crew who will be based at Southend, so we need high quality furnished and unfurnished accommodation to meet the needs of these vital new staff members.

"I will not offer you any tenants that I would not be happy to have in my own home."

Terry Farthing, MD

Stobart Air 

Airport
LETTINGS

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stuart thomas

the property people

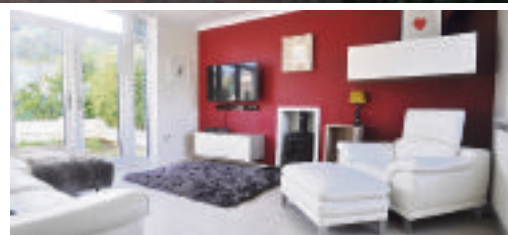
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SEEN

THUNDERSLEY £339,995

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- USEFUL UTILITY SPACE
- EASY ACCESS OF A127
- WELL FITTED KITCHEN





stuart thomas

the property people

Celebrating 10 years!

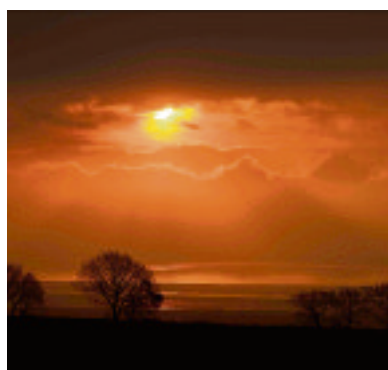


**NEW
INSTRUCTION**



HADLEIGH £260,000

- STUNNING FIRST FLOOR FLAT
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- MODERN FITTED KITCHEN



A STRESS FREE DAY



I have moved 4 times and each move was a highly stressful experience. With all kinds of things going wrong so I was delighted when this move with Stuart Thomas went like a well oiled machine. What problems that did crop up were easily dealt with by Stuart and his staff. I can't praise them enough, well done all of you.

FAB CUSTOMER SERVICE



We signed up with Stuart Thomas and they sold our property within in a week! The staff are always contactable if we had queries and very helpful when we were looking for a property ourselves too. If we move again we know who we'd ask for help!

AMAZING!

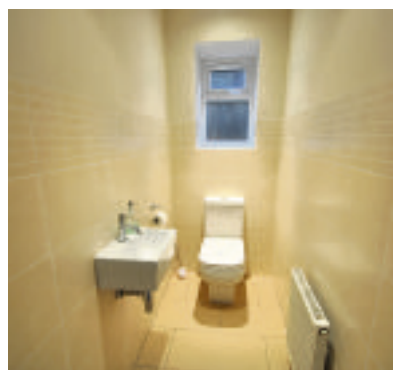


They are really amazing estate agents. 4 viewings in 24 hours, 2 offers and sold. Really pushed the sale through for us, start to finish will be 1 month! Nothing was too much trouble for them, always happy to help and the whole team so friendly. Would recommend to anyone!

THE BEST AGENT WE HAVE EVER USED



We cannot thank Stuart and his team enough for all their help with our recent house move. They kept us up to date on how things were progressing and any problems were quickly resolved. We would certainly recommend them to our family and friends and would have no hesitation in using them again for any future property moves.



**NEW
INSTRUCTION**



THUNDERSLEY £325,000 GUIDE PRICE

- THREE BEDROOM HOUSE
- ON THREE LEVELS!
- SUPERB FITTED KITCHEN/DINER
- LOCAL SCHOOLS NEARBY
- GROUND FLOOR CLOAKROOM
- WALKING DISTANCE OF VILLAGE



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Great Wakering £230,000



- Sought after location
- Two bedrooms
- 90' West backing garden
- Off street parking
- No onward chain

Westcliff On Sea £370,000



- Immaculate semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Recently installed contemporary kitchen
- 90' South backing garden and parking
- Sought after location

Southend On Sea £90,000



- First floor retirement apartment
- Central Southend
- Double bedroom
- Attractive communal lounge
- Over 60's

Leigh On Sea £750 pcm



- Self contained first floor apartment
- Fully refurbished throughout
- Two double bedrooms
- Full double glazing

Westcliff On Sea Shop To Let £6,000 Per Annum



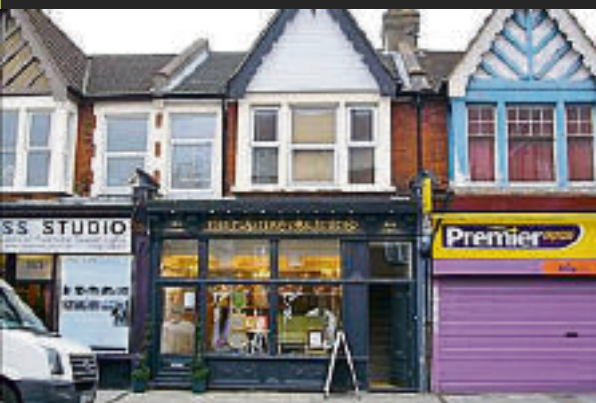
- 574 Sq Ft
- New Shop Front
- Rear Storage Area
- Opposite Co-Op

Southend On Sea Shop/Office To Let £28,500 Per Annum



- 1,860 Sq Ft
- Situated Over Two Floors
- Close To High Street
- Close to Public Car Parks

Westcliff On Sea Resi/Commercial Investment For Sale £249,995 Freehold



- Potential Income: £17,000 Per Annum
- Two Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Ground floor Retail Shop
- London Road Location

Westcliff On Sea Shop To Let £7,000 Per Annum



- 440 Sq Ft
- Good Trading Location
- Roller Shutter To Front
- Close to Public Car Parks



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LEIGH-ON-SEA £355,000

- 3 bedrooms
- Superb Living Space
- Cloakroom
- Quality Fitted kitchen
- Wet Room
- Extensive Parking & Garage
- 65' x 50' Rear Garden
- Refurbished To A High Standard
- Must Be Viewed Internally
- No Onward Chain



RAYLEIGH £289,995

- 2 Bedrooms
- Modern Kitchen
- Bathroom/wc
- Garage & Own Drive
- Double Glazing
- Popular Cul De Sac Location
- Close to Station & Shops
- No Onward Chain
- Corner Location
- Offers Invited

Properties With Development Potential Urgently Required



BASILDON £295,000

- Refurbished Throughout
- 3 Bedrooms
- Cloakroom
- Superb Kitchen/Diner
- Bath & Shower Room
- UPVC Double Glazing
- New Central Heating System
- Spacious Lounge
- Must Be Viewed Internally
- No Onward Chain



RAYLEIGH £365,000

- 3 Bedrooms
- Lounge With Wood Burner
- Country Style Kitchen & Utility
- Victorian Style Conservatory
- Modern Bathroom
- Cloakroom
- Large Rear Garden
- Ample Parking
- Potential To Extend
- Close To Station


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BACKING**



A Fine Example Of A Deceptively Large Detached Residence Offering Extensive Accommodation Which Could Be Altered Slightly To Form An Annexe \ Reception Hall 17'11 x 11'2 \ Lounge 18'7 x 11'11 \ Dining Room 13'9 x 13'1 \ Conservatory 14' x 10'11 \ Kitchen/Breakfast Room 13'1 x 11'10 \ Second Kitchen/Utility Room 13'10 x 12'4 \ Ground Floor Cloakroom \ Study 11'9 x 5'7 \ Bar/Further Reception Space 14'9 x 8'11 \ Bedroom One 18'8 x 14'3 \ En-Suite \ Bedroom Two 12'8 x 9'9 \ Bedroom Three 11'2 x 8'5 \ Bedroom Four 9' x 8'6 \ Bathroom, South Backing Landscaped 60ft Rear Garden \ Office 19'5 x 12'8 \ Off Street Parking For Numerous Vehicles \ Close To A13 Trunk Road \ EPC - B \ **Call 01702 555888 or live chat at amosestates.com**

Glendale Gardens, LEIGH-ON-SEA

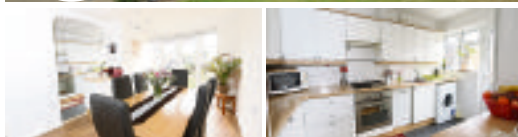
Guide Price £550,000 - £560,000



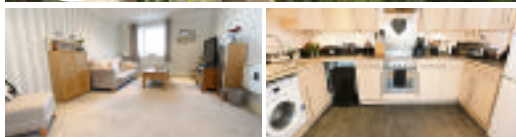
**WESTLEIGH
AND BELFAIRS
CATCHMENT**



Well Presented Five Bedroom Character Home With Accommodation Over Three Floors And Off Street Parking For Two Vehicles To The Rear \ Lounge 16'2 x 12'3 \ Kitchen/Diner 18'2 x 13'1 \ Bedroom One 16'2 x 10'11 \ Bedroom Two 13'1 x 10'3 \ Bedroom Three 9'5 x 7' \ Bathroom \ Second Floor Bedroom One 13'2 x 10'10 \ En-Suite Shower Room \ Second Floor Bedroom Two/Dressing Room 13'2 x 6'8 \ 50ft Rear Garden \ Off Street Parking To Rear With Potential For Further Parking To Front Subject To Necessary Consent \ Walking Distance To Mainline Station \ Close To Leigh Broadway \ Westleigh School & Belfairs Academy Catchment Area \ Viewings Advised \ EPC - D \ **Call 01702 555888 or live chat at amosestates.com**

THUNDERSLEY / **£300,000****EXCELLENT
CONDITION**

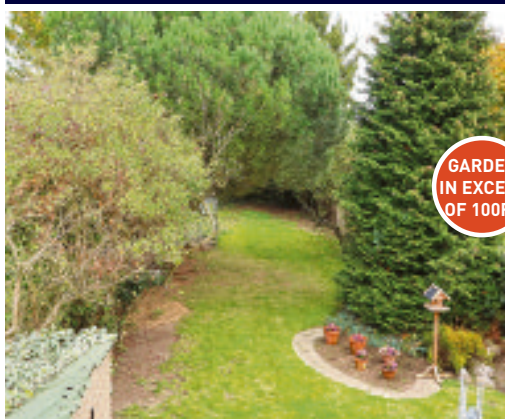
A Superb Family Home In Excellent Condition In This Popular Convenient Location \ Ground Floor Cloakroom \ Lounge 11'6 x 10'8 \ Dining Room 15'1 x 10'3 max \ Kitchen 11'7 x 6'3 \ Bedroom One 14'9 x 10'2 \ Bedroom Two 12'5 x 10'2 \ Bedroom Three 10'8 x 6'6 \ Three Piece Shower Room \ 25ft Detached Garage \ Off Street Parking For Several Vehicles \ Delightful South Backing Rear Garden \ Easy Access Of A127 and A13 Trunk Roads \ Viewings Advised \ EPC - D \ **Call 01702 555888 or live chat at amosestates.com**

HADLEIGH / **Guide £200,000 - £210,000****CONVENIENT
LOCATION**

A Spacious Extremely Well Presented Two Bedroom Top Floor Flat Providing Excellent Views Of The Surrounding Area Towards The Thames Estuary \ Lounge/Kitchen 23'8 x 11'11 \ Bedroom One 10'8 x 9'11 \ Bedroom Two 13'0 x 7'0 \ Modern Four Piece Bathroom Suite \ Allocated & Visitors Parking \ Communal Gardens \ Freshly Decorated Throughout \ Newly Fitted Flooring Throughout \ Large Loft Space Providing Excellent Storage Facility \ Convenient Location Within Walking Distance Of Hadleigh Town Centre & Hadleigh Castle \ Viewings Advised \ EPC - C \ **Call 01702 555888 or live chat at amosestates.com**

EASTWOOD / **£350,000****WELL
DECORATED**

Well Presented Three Bedroom Semi-Detached Family Home Situated In This Desirable Turning \ Lounge/Diner 18'9 x 17'8 \ Conservatory 15'4 x 7'10 \ Kitchen 11'10 x 8'11 \ Bedroom One 12'5 x 11'7 With En-Suite Shower Room \ Bedroom Two 11'5 x 9'1 \ Bedroom Three 8'1 x 7' \ Bathroom \ Attractive 30ft Rear Garden \ Store Room 11'6 x 4'2 \ Off Street Parking For Numerous Vehicles \ Close To Local Amenities \ Easy Access Of A127 \ Viewings Advised \ EPC - E \ **Call 01702 555888 or live chat at amosestates.com**

DAWS HEATH / **Guide £425,000 - £450,000****GARDEN
IN EXCESS
OF 100FT**

Three Bedroom Detached Family Home, In The Popular And Sought After Daws Heath Location, 100ft Plus East Backing Garden \ Rewiring Throughout \ Lounge 17'4 x 12'2 \ Dining Room 10'10 x 8'10 \ Kitchen 10'6 x 8'10 \ Shower Room \ Bedroom One 15'5 x 10'6 \ Bedroom Two 10'10 x 8'11 \ Bedroom Three 8'11 x 8'11 \ Bathroom \ uPVC Double Glazing \ Garage \ Easy Access Of Local Amenities \ Easy Distance From Hadleigh Town Centre \ No Onward Chain \ Keys Held For Accompanied Viewings \ Viewings Advised \ EPC - E \ **Call 01702 555888 or live chat at amosestates.com**

LEIGH-ON-SEA / **£465,000****DESIRABLE
LOCATION**

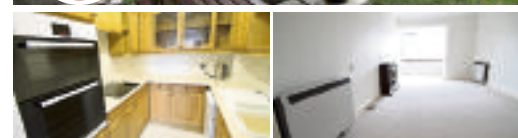
A Deceptively Large Versatile Property Offering Extensive Accommodation In A Highly Regarded Location Close To Chalkwell Park \ Plenty Of Charm And Character \ Lounge 17'8 x 10'11 \ Sitting Room/Bedroom Four 12' x 9'11 \ Dining Room 13'2 x 9'11 \ Modern Fitted Kitchen 16'1 x 8'5 \ Garden Lounge 18'5 x 12'10 \ Family Bathroom Suite \ Ground Floor Bedroom 11'7 x 9'2 \ Bedroom One 15'1 x 14'3 Max \ Bedroom Two 14'8 x 12'11 Max \ First Floor W.C \ Secluded Rear Garden Measuring Approximately 50ft \ Off Street Parking \ Close To Good Local Schools Including Being Within Belfairs School Catchment \ Extremely Sought After Location \ Well Decorated Throughout \ Walking Distance Of Chalkwell Park And Leigh Broadway \ Sole Agents \ Viewings Essential \ EPC - F \ **Call 01702 555888 or live chat at amosestates.com**

RAYLEIGH / **From £360,000****CLOSE TO
SHOPS**

Three Bedroom Semi Detached House \ Great Road Close To Rayleigh High Street \ Impressive Fan Shaped West Backing Rear garden \ Lounge With Feature Fireplace \ Modern Well Fitted Kitchen \ Well Decorated \ Large Garage And Own Driveway \ Double Glazed Windows \ **Call Rayleigh Office 01268 742742 Or Live Chat At amosestates.com**

RAYLEIGH / **£315,000****CLOSE TO
STATION**

Very Well Located Carter & Ward Bungalow \ Two Bedrooms \ Lounge With Bay Window & Feature Fireplace \ Double Glazed Conservatory \ White Fitted Kitchen \ Short Walk To Rayleigh Train Station & High Street \ Off Street Parking & Detached Garage \ Quick Sale Possible \ **Call Rayleigh Office On 01268 742742 Or Live Chat at amosestates.com**

The Sheritons, RAYLEIGH / **£185,000****OVER 55'S**

Bright, Spacious First Floor Flat \ Over 55's \ Newly Fitted Carpets \ Lift Access \ Sought After Sheritons Development \ Walk To Rayleigh Station \ Bus Stop Outside Development \ Pull Emergency Cords \ Development Manager \ Fitted Kitchen \ Large Lounge With Bay Window \ Keys Held For Immediate Viewing Of The Property \ **Call Rayleigh Office 01268 742742 or Live Chat At amosestates.com**

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£294,500

SOUTHEND ON SEA

Family home close to shops, schools & train stations



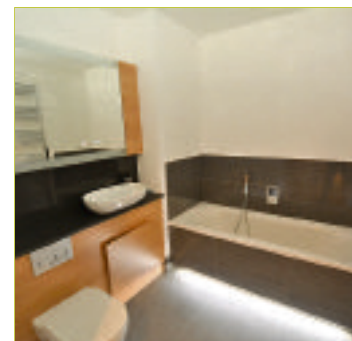
- Extended 3 bed
- Semi detached
- West backing
- Garage
- Double glazing
- Central heating
- Ref: 3747
- EPC:E



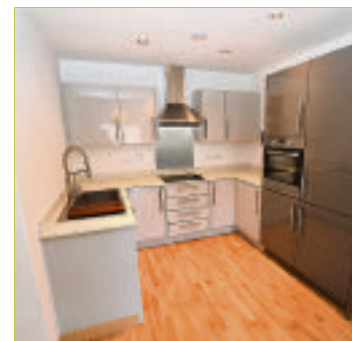
£215,000

SOUTHEND ON SEA

Luxury 2 bed apartment with 2 underground car parking spaces



- Ground Floor
- 2 double Bedrooms
- Private patio
- En Suite Shower
- Double glazing
- Central heating
- No onward chain
- Ref:3746, EPC:B



£268,000

SHOEBURYNESSE

Quiet location close to ASDA centre

- Two double bedrooms
- Semi detached house
- Parking for 2 vehicles
- Double glazing
- Central Heating
- No onward chain
- Ref: 3750
- EPC: D



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MARINE ESTATE, LEIGH £599,995

QUICK SALE POSSIBLE For this large FOUR BEDROOM semi detached family house with west facing garden. Sought after Marine Estate within the Westleigh Schools catchment area and walking distance of Leigh Station. Three large bedrooms on the 1st floor plus 3rd reception room/ 4th bedroom on the ground floor, large 18' x 12'7 lounge and separate 18'9 x 12'2 dining room, new fitted kitchen, garage and parking. ETL5635



PROBATE SALE - DETACHED HOUSE, GREAT WAKERING £365,000

Keys are available to view this detached house situated in a sought after cul-de-sac location with a pretty walled rear garden backing onto paddocks and open fields (view shown above) the village shops, amenities and school are just a short walk away. Three good size bedrooms, cloaks w.c., bathroom and separate w.c., superb 24' x 14'6 lounge, separate 13' x 9'1 dining room/ conservatory, spacious kitchen, gas c/h and d/glazing, NO ONWARD CHAIN Ref etl5651



PROBATE SALE, HIGHLANDS, LEIGH £465,000

A four bedroom semi detached house with detached garage situated in a sought after location within the Westleigh Schools Catchment area and walking distance of Leigh Station. Good size south backing garden. Large lounge and separate dining room, groundfloor w.c., spacious kitchen. The property requires MODERNISATION and the asking price has been set to reflect this. Ref etl5646



HIGHLANDS, LEIGH £450,000

This most attractive double bay fronted character semi-detached house is situated in a sought after location on the Highlands Estate within the Westleigh Schools catchment area, walking distance of local shops and Leigh station. Three double bedrooms, spacious lounge, separate dining room, superb open plan 21' x 13'6 kitchen and breakfast room, utility room, cloaks/w.c., 65' rear garden, off street parking. Ref etl5610



FOUR BEDROOM CHALET HADLEIGH/ LEIGH BORDERS £449,995

Situated in a particularly sought after location close to the Nature Reserve is this four bedroom semi-detached chalet style home with impressive 43' road frontage and large secluded garden. Internally the property offers stunning open plan accommodation Four bedrooms, en suite shower, superb conservatory, extensively fitted kitchen, 75' rear garden, parking for 5 cars, QUICK SALE REQUIRED Ref etl5621



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PROBATE SALE - SOUTH LEIGH £399,995

This attractive character house is situated just a few minutes walk from Chalkwell Station in a highly sought after location. Estuary views from a first floor balcony and from bedrooms one and two. Large lounge, separate dining room, cloaks/w.c., west facing garden. Extensive modernisation and improvement required, hence price. APPLICANTS ABLE TO PROCEED ONLY PLEASE. Ref etl5649



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LEIGH-ON-SEA £465,000

Superb four bedroom family house in sought after location and with off street parking, 70' WEST FACING rear garden, large lounge, exceptional open plan kitchen/ dining room plus conservatory, bathroom and separate shower room. Early viewing advised - quick sale possible. Ref5650

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Rooney's supercar transfer-listed

By Chris Russon

FOOTBALL'S January transfer window has thrown up an unlikely mover in the shape of Wayne Rooney's BMW i8 sports car.

The Everton player's hybrid-electric motor is listed on Auto Trader for £64,995.

The former England captain is currently subject to a two year ban after being caught drink-driving.

The metallic ionic silver i8 with less than 8,000 miles on the clock has a top speed of 155mph, a 0 to 60 time of 4.4 seconds and has a theoretical fuel return of 134 miles to the gallon.

Erin Baker, Auto Trader editorial director, said: "It's refreshing to see a footballer driving a hybrid, rather than a Chelsea tractor

or gas-guzzling super car, and even more so to see a footballer's car in a sober colour.

"The trend with more premiership stars plugging-in also reflects the UK car market.

"Auto Trader data for December 2017 shows that searches for electric vehicles were up 56 per cent year-on-year – with hybrid vehicles also showing a substantial 50 per cent rise in searches."

Leicester City made headlines in 2016 when the club's chairman bought the 2015/16 championship team their own fleet of BMW i8s.

However, the registration of Wayne Rooney's model indicates he was ahead of the curve, first buying his BMW i8 back in 2014.



HYBRID: Wayne Rooney in his BMW i8 which is listed on Auto Trader for £64,995

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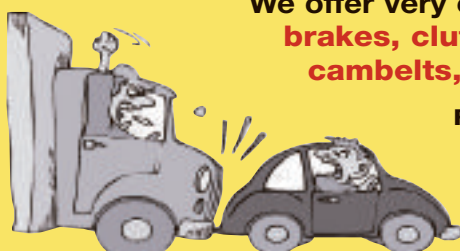
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**PUBLIC NOTICE
LICENSING ACT 2003**
We, McManus Managed Pub Co. Limited, do hereby give notice that we have applied to the Licensing Authority at Southend-on-Sea Borough Council for the variation of the Premises Licence at Bellini Bar and Brasserie, 1008-1012 London Road, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 3NE by the approval of the refurbishment and restyling of the interior only of the premises in accordance with Drawing No. 1631-50A a copy of which is available for inspection at the Licensing Authority. No change is proposed to any permitted hours or conditions already attached to the licence. Any Responsible Authority or other person wishing to make representations to this Application must do so by writing to the Licensing Authority, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS2 6ZG or by email to licad2003@southend.gov.uk not later than 21st February 2018. Representations received after this date will not be considered. A copy of the Application can be viewed at the Licensing Authority's address above during normal office hours. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make false statement in connection with this Application, the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.00. Dated: 15th January 2018.
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Red card for Masuaku in spitting disgrace

Football

**Wigan Athletic 2
West Ham United 0**
FA Cup fourth round
Brian Jeeves reporting
from the DW Stadium

WEST HAM United's involvement in this season's Emirates FA Cup was brought to a shuddering end on Saturday as goals early in each half from Will Grigg earned Sky Bet League One outfit Wigan Athletic a comfortable win at the DW Stadium.

Despite prioritising Premier League survival, West Ham manager David Moyes was quick to point out that success in the cup would come as a boost to his side.

Nevertheless, Moyes made a number of changes to the side which drew 1-1 with AFC Bournemouth last week, with Joe Hart returning in goal and new loan signing Joao Mario on the bench.

Wigan, five points clear at the top of League One, went into the match defending an unbeaten sequence stretching back 14 matches in all competitions.

The Hammers had won both of their previous FA Cup encounters with the Latics, winning 1-0 in a third-round tie in 1984, then more recently a 2-1 win at the DW Stadium 20 years later.

However, the hosts swiftly went about amending those statistics when Northern Irish frontman, Grigg, headed Nathan Byrne's centre powerfully beyond Hart with barely seven minutes on the clock.

The Hammers were already looking shell-shocked as the third-

tier side took complete control of proceedings.

Only an assistant's flag denied the home side a second after Chey Dunkley dived headlong to beat Hart from close range.

Arthur Masuaku was offering the Hammers greatest threat, marauding down the left-hand side. But it was Wigan who continued to look the more likely – Grigg again close, heading the wrong side of an upright after Byrne had once again provided the opportunity.

West Ham were dealt a further blow when Pedro Obiang was stretched off following a strong but fair challenge from Max Power. Meanwhile, on the stroke of half-time, Obiang's replacement, Reece Oxford, sliced high and wide after Antonio Martinez had wriggled clear down the right.

West Ham reappeared for the second period with a spring in their step. But their problems soon deepened as Masuaku was shown a straight red card after appearing to spit at Latics impressive playmaker Nick Powell.

Things soon went from bad to worse for the east Londoners. Reece Burke handled as Grigg looked for an opening, and the Latics striker sent Hart the wrong way for his and Wigan's second of the afternoon from the resulting spot-kick.

Powell continued to tease the Hammers backline, while Byrne's fizzing low cross eluded a clutch of potential takers as the Lancashire side looked to put the contest beyond doubt.

It was a truly miserable after-

noon for West Ham, and the huge travelling support had seen enough with many by now already back on the motorway.

The loss of Obiang, through what appeared to be a serious injury, and potentially Masuaku with a lengthy band to follow added to the manager's concerns.

There was little disputing that Wigan thoroughly deserved their victory against a Hammers side that failed to muster a single shot on target.

Moyes said after the game: "We didn't play like a Premier League team, but we didn't have a Premier League squad out."

"We had young players who didn't perform well enough, but we had senior players who didn't help them and Arthur – what he did was despicable. We deserved it and he will deserve everything he gets. He will get something off us as well."

On Masuaku's red card Moyes could barely hide his frustration, adding: "It's unacceptable – totally unacceptable. The referee can't see it so it was the players' reaction that got him sent off but ultimately, they got the right decision so I have got no qualms about it, but I have to say, the ref couldn't see it."

The Hammers boss added: "There is no way the fourth official and the linesman can see it so he went off the reaction of the players. But, let me not try and hide behind the decision of the referee, he got it right."

Moyes' woes were completed by the serious looking injury picked up by Obiang. "We think it's medial ligament. But we will get it



OFF: Arthur Masuaku

Photo by Martin Dalton

checked. I've not had a chance to see the tackle again, it looked fine, just one you expect when you play at Wigan. You have to come up here and expect that, there was no malice in it."

Latics chief Paul Cook, who was celebrating a second successive victory over Premier League opposition, said: "I'm very proud of my players, it's a great day for the club."

West Ham travel to the Amex Stadium on Saturday, February 3, to face Brighton & Hove Albion (3pm).

Wigan Athletic: Christian Walton, Nathan Byrne, Callum Elder (Reece James 86'), Sammy Morsy (capt), Max Power, Will Grigg (Gary Roberts 88'), Gavin Massey (Ryan Colclough 76'), Michael Jacobs, Chey Dunkley, Nick Powell, Dan Burn Subs not used: Jamie Jones, David Perkins, Alex Bruce, Jay Fulton

West Ham United: Joe Hart, Aaron Cresswell, Pablo Zabaleta (Joao Mario 46'), Pedro Obiang (Reece Oxford 36'), Javier Hernandez, Angelo Ogbonna, Sam Byram, Arthur Masuaku, Antonio Martinez (Sead Haksabanovic 81'), Reece Burke, Josh Cullen Subs not used: Adrian, James Collins, Domingos Quina, Grady Diangana

Referee: Christopher Kavanagh
Assistants: Scott Ledger, Nick Greenhalgh

Fourth Official: Tony Harrington

Attendance: 14,194

THE BIG MATCH

BRIGHTON v HAMMERS

Premier League
Amex Stadium
Saturday, February 3 (3pm)



Non-league round-up

Billerica hit Tooting for six

By Brian Jeeves

BILLERICAY Town stretched their unbeaten Bostik League Premier Division run to 22 matches as Tooting & Mitcham United were swept aside 6-2 at the KNK Stadium. Jake Robinson hit a hat-trick for Glenn Tamplin's men, while Danny Waldren bagged a brace and Rob Swaine was also on target in the emphatic victory for the Blues.

But it was a disappointing afternoon for other Bostik Premier clubs. Remi Sutton hit Thurrock's goal in a 2-1 defeat at Merstham, while Andre McCollin's late strike condemned Harlow Town to a 1-0 home setback at the hands of Kingstonian.

Bostik North leaders, AFC Hornchurch, required a George Purcell goal two minutes from time to see off Norwich United by a goal to nil at Bridge Avenue.

Mitchell Gilbey and George Sykes found the net after the break as Canvey Island won 2-0 at Romford, while Kieran Bailey's goal on the hour was enough for Maldon & Tiptree at Waltham Abbey.

A first-half penalty from Billy Jones gave Barking a 1-0 win over Dereham Town at Mayesbrook Park, while Jamie Slabber ensured Grays Athletic a share of the spoils against Hertford Town at Parkside. Tilbury slipped to a heavy 5-2 home defeat at the hands of Mildenhall Town. Siju Odelusi and Adam Vyse with the Dockers goals. Meanwhile, Heybridge Swifts were also beaten as visitors AFC Sudbury snatched the points with a single goal success. Bowers & Pitsea lost further ground on leaders Hornchurch after going down to a late Eoin Casey strike at Potters Bar Town.

It was a frustrating afternoon for the region's top-flight National League sides. Leyton Orient played out an entertaining five-goal thriller with promotion-chasing Aldershot Town at Brisbane Road but slipped to a 3-2 defeat. Former Colchester United duo Macauley Bonne and George Elokobi provided the O's goals.

Dagenham & Redbridge slipped to a disappointing home defeat. Fejiri Okenabirhie gave the Daggers hope with a goal shortly before half-time. However, an early brace from Adi Yussuf, coupled with another from Oladapo Afolayan 20 minutes from time ensured visitors Solihull Moors all three points at Victoria Road.

Ben Greenhalgh found the net twice in the opening 22 minutes as Concord Rangers saw off Eastbourne Borough in a decent National South contest at the Aspect Arena. The Beach Boys midfielder grabbed his first from the spot after Femi Akinwande was felled, then followed up after Steve Cawley was thwarted, ensuring the Canvey club remain seven points above the drop zone.

Chelmsford City's promotion credentials took a hit as the Clarets went down by the odd goal in three to Hampton & Richmond Borough at the Melbourne Stadium. Anthony Church cancelled out Max Kretzschmar's early opener for the visitors. But Elliott Charles won it for Borough midway through the second period.

It was a painful afternoon for East Thurrock United who were thrashed 7-2 at St Albans City. Lewis Smith and a Dean Snedker own-goal provided the Rocks supporters with a crumb of comfort on an otherwise forgettable afternoon.

Great Wakering Rovers were the big winners of the day in the Essex Senior League. The Burrough Park club hammered Burnham Ramblers 7-0. Rovers are nine points behind league leaders Redbridge who eased to a 4-1 success at Waltham Forest.

Ilford edged past Hackney Wick by the odd goal in three at the Cricklefield Stadium, while Hullbridge Sports and Enfield 1893 played out a 1-1 draw on a damp afternoon at Lower Road.

Elsewhere, matches between Southend Manor and Basildon United, and Takeley and West Essex fell foul to waterlogged pitches.

In the ProKitt UK Essex Olympian League White Ensign won their Premier Division clash at Bishop's Stortford Swifts 4-1. Rayleigh Town also won on the road, with a single goal at Basildon Town.

In Division One, Buckhurst Hill were resounding 4-1 winners over Shenfield AFC at Roding Lane. Meanwhile, at Garon Park Old Southendians were 5-2 winners over Harold Hill.

Blues off to a great start with new boss

**Southend United 3
Scunthorpe United 2**
Sky Bet League One

By Rowland Lyons at Roots Hall
CHRIS Powell's managerial reign got off to the perfect start on Saturday as Southend overturned the form book by humbling promotion-chasing ten men Scunthorpe.

Tom Hopper opened the scoring, with Michael Kightly equalising and Stephen McLaughlin firing the Blues ahead, only for Kevin van Veen to net.

Seconds after Cameron Burgess had been sent-off, Michael Turner provided a stoppage time winner.

Despite a keen Southend start with the visitors on the back foot, the hosts found themselves a goal down after only 12 minutes.

A sloppy Turner clearance saw van Veen allowed too much time and space to cross. Then, the normally reliable Jason Demetriou fac-

ing his own goal, made a complete hash of his clearance and Hopper, dived in to net from six yards.

Stung into action, the Blues almost levelled five minutes later when the recalled Marc Antoine-Fortune was left holding his head in his hands when somehow Scunny keeper Rory Watson kept out his point-blank effort.

The Shrimpers kept up the pressure and were unlucky not to be back in the game on the half-hour when the diving Watson made a smart double save to thwart McLaughlin's piledriver, before blocking Kightly's follow-up.

Southend's persistence finally paid off when Kightly's 37th minute cross deceived Watson and flew in at the far post.

With Kightly having almost doubled his tally, soon after the interval, with a wickedly swerving free-kick, on 53 minutes, McLaughlin went

one better with an absolute belter of a set-piece that flew through a poorly-organised United wall and comprehensively beat Watson.

However, the Shrimpers' joy was short-lived as they failed to clear their lines from a move initiated by Duane Holmes, and van Veen fired home into the top corner.

Scunthorpe nearly stole the win a minute from time when an unmarked Goode header was nodded off the line by McLaughlin.

Deep into stoppage time, this exciting encounter took another twist when Burgess saw red for a second yellow card after a cynical foul on Dru Yearwood.

McLaughlin let fly with Watson pulling off a brilliant save, but unable to hold on to the Irishman's drive Turner slid in to net the winner.

After Southend's first win since Boxing Day, Powell told the club's website: "Playing the way we did,

and winning the way we did, we know we can compete."

Match winner Turner said: "It's a huge performance and for the new manager coming in it's a great start."

Blues travel to Peterborough United on Saturday, February 3, kick-off 3pm.

Southend United: Mark Oxley, Jason Demetriou, John White, Michael Turner, Ben Coker (capt), Michael Kightly, Dru Yearwood, Michael Timlin, Stephen McLaughlin, Simon Cox, Marc-Antoine Fortune (Theo Robinson 83). Subs (not used): Nathan Bishop, Anton Ferdinand, Jermaine McGlashan, Michael Klass, Harry Kyrianiou, Norman Wabo.

Scunthorpe United: Rory Watson, Cameron Burgess, Charlie Goode, Murray Wallace, Duane Holmes, Funso Ojo (capt), Cameron McGeehan (Ryan Yates 60), Josh Morris, Hakeeb Adelakun, Kevin van Veen (Lee Novak 84), Tom Hopper. Subs (not used): Adam Kelsey, Conor Townsend, Ivan Toney, Levi Sutton, Rory McArdle.

Referee: Craig Hicks

Assistants: Andrew Williams, Paul Kelly

Fourth Official: Charles Breakspear

Attendance: 6,723



What's causing your pain in the BUTT? Sciatica

**Jon Handley-Collins,
Doctor of Chiropractic**



Sciatica "Si-at-ika" is a group of symptoms involving pain in the buttock and back of the leg, only usually on one side of the body. In addition to pain there may be any combination of pins & needles, numbness, tingling and muscle weakness in the affected leg or foot. The true meaning of Sciatica is often misunderstood. The term is merely a group of symptoms and not a diagnosis. This means that if you have been told you have Sciatica, you still have not been given a diagnosis, as the diagnosis is being told what is causing your Sciatica symptoms. Having a correct diagnosis is important because the treatment options for the different causes are very different.

The main causes of Sciatica are:

- **Spinal disc herniation:** Some people call this a "slipped disc" but what actually happens is the fluid like contents of your spinal disc causes the outer layers of the disc to bulge out. If this bulge is on to a spinal nerve in your lower back, it can cause Sciatica.
- **Spinal Stenosis:** This is where the hole for your spinal nerve to exit from the spinal canal closes up and puts pressure on the affected nerve, causing Sciatica.
- **Piriformis Syndrome:** The piriformis is a muscle in your buttock. The Sciatic nerve passes very closely to this muscle and in rare cases passes through the muscle. When this muscle gets tight it can irritate the Sciatic nerve, which can cause Sciatica.

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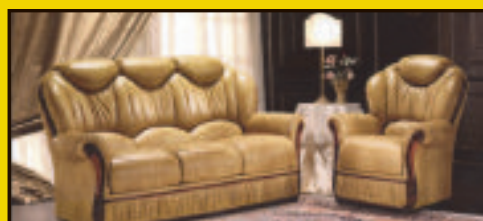
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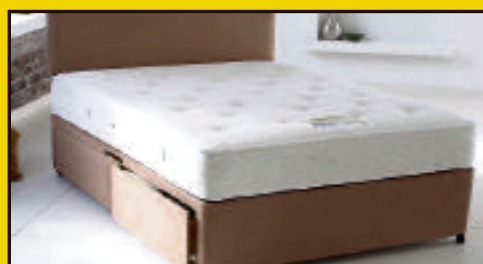
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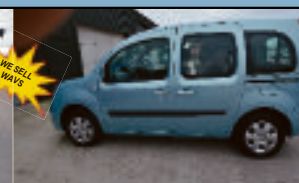
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